2000. M/s. Koshika have furnished unconditional acceptance in this regard on 25th April, 2000.

Rural telephones in Assam

3834. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the target set to provide rural telephones in the rural areas of Assam during the last five years and till date district-wise/year-wise, separately;

(b) the details of rural telephones which have been provided in rural areas of Assam during this period, district-wise/year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the target fixed for installation of rural telephones in hill districts of Assam has not been achieved during this period;

(d) if so, the details of remaining targets yet to be achieved in the above districts of Assam; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The district-wise targets/achievements of rural telephones provided in the rural areas of Assam during the last five years are given in the enclosed Annexure. [*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 92].

(c) No Sir. The targets for installation of rural telephones in hill districts of Assam i.e. NC Hill and Karbi Anglong have been fully achieved during the last five years as per the details given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 92].

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of reply to para (c) above.

Revision of pay scales of Postal Assistants

3835. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government for revision of pay scales of Postal Assistants of Department of Posts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and